

MIKE FAIR
CHAIRMAN

Corrections & Penology Committee



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October 21, 2013

Chairman G. O'Neal Hamilton
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: Application of United Utility Companies, Incorporated
Docket 2013-199-WS

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The rate request application of United Utility Companies, Incorporated occurs within close proximity to its most recent rate increase request, which was granted. It seems that United Utility Companies, Incorporated is unconcerned about the unnecessary hardship being placed on the residents, businesses, and institutions which result from the repeated increases of its utility rates. What happens to the users when they cannot meet the newly increased rates and go out of business or face additional financial burdens?

One specific example of both residents and an institution that will face undue stress stemming from the granting of the rate request includes the parents and institution of North Greenville University. The parents of the students who attend North Greenville, oftentimes, struggle to keep their children in school due to the financial burdens of higher education. As a region and as a state, we are woefully lacking in the gross number of matriculating and graduating students. Businesses often look to these numbers as a consideration as to whether to locate in the upstate of South Carolina.

An increase in utility rates will impact both the fiscal health of the families of these students and the institution the students attend. In an economy that is still recovering, any increase will have far-reaching ramifications on the users. Creating more financial burdens which may prohibit some South Carolinians from attending institutions of higher-learning, not only harms the individuals, but also, negatively impacts our state and region in the years to come.

October 21, 2013

Please consider the implications of this and other utilities' rate increases on the users. You face a difficult task, but you and I, in our respective positions, must place individuals in a place of priority or our republic will lose yet another rung in the ladder of exigency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Fair', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mike Fair

cc: Representative Mike Burns
Dr. James B. Epting